

1

2

3

4

5

6

7           INTRODUCTORY BRIEFING ON NATIVE AMERICAN GAMING  
8 ISSUES

9                   CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

10                   I'd like to introduce our distinguished  
11 panel of experts now. And I understand that with  
12 travel schedules and other commitments that we may have  
13 to reorder how some of the panelists are representing.  
14 I will introduce the entire panel, and then we'll take  
15 a look at who in fact is going to go first.

16                   Edith Prague. Edith, thank you for being  
17 here. She is a distinguished member of the Connecticut  
18 State Senate since 1995. Please come on up and join us  
19 at the table.

1           Senator Prague chairs the Select Committee  
2 on the Aging and the Labor and Public Employees  
3 Committee. And from 1983 to 1990 she served in the  
4 Connecticut General Assembly as State Representative  
5 from the Eighth District.

6           Douglas Wilkins. Is Mr. Wilkins in the  
7 room? Mr. Wilkins is the First Assistant Attorney  
8 General for the State of Massachusetts. He has handled  
9 matters relating to tribal plans for gambling in  
10 Massachusetts. And has been involved in Native  
11 American gaming matters in other jurisdictions,  
12 including the federal litigation between the State of  
13 Rhode Island and the Narragansett Tribe.

14           Joseph P. Kalt. Is he here? Is the Ford  
15 Foundation Professor of International Political Economy  
16 at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard  
17 University. He's also the co-director of the Harvard  
18 Project on American Indian Economic Development. And  
19 co-author of What Can Tribes Do? Strategies and

1 Institutions in American Indian Economic Development.

2 Thank you for being here.

3 Tadd Johnson. Tadd is the Chairman of the  
4 National Indian Gaming Commission. Before his  
5 appointment in 1997, Mr. Johnson was an attorney in  
6 private practice specializing in negotiating self-  
7 governance agreements for Indian tribes. Mr. Johnson  
8 is a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

9 Beverly Wright. Is Beverly Wright here?

10 Beverly has served as chairperson of the  
11 Wampanoag Tribal Council for the last four years. And  
12 served on the Council for 12 years before being elected  
13 chairperson. She is the Vice President of the United  
14 South and Eastern Tribes and a member of the National  
15 Congress of American Indians. And I understand that  
16 you have a flight to catch and need to be moved up on  
17 the agenda?

18 MS. WRIGHT: I live on an island, so --.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, we certainly want  
20 to accommodate that.

1                   And we'll be joined later by Connecticut  
2 Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. And I will ask  
3 the staff to please escort him to the table upon his  
4 arrival.

5                   I'll again mention that any of our  
6 panelists, I would encourage you to summarize your  
7 prepared testimony in order to allow for additional for  
8 questions and answers. And to assure you that your  
9 full testimony will be entered into the record. And  
10 I'd also take the opportunity to again inform each  
11 panelist that under the Supplemental Rules of the  
12 Commission testimony for the Commission shall be  
13 considered to be conducted under oath.

14                  The Commission may question witnesses and  
15 according to our Supplemental Rules if anyone is ever  
16 interested in being represented by counsel, of course  
17 they may be.

18                  I'm going to start with Senator Prague and  
19 then, I'll go right down the line after that. And

1 again, welcome to each and every one of you and we look  
2 forward to hearing from you.